

SLOMERF QUARTERLY MEETING 3/9/2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., SV administrative conference room. In Attendance Drs. Hilty, Hansen, Kissel, Bernhardt and Hannah; by teleconference Drs. Vaughn, Redford and DiCarlo. Dr. Joye Carter has retired and moved out of the area.

Minutes

Minutes from the prior meeting (11/10/2022) were reviewed with no corrections

Financial Report

Presented by Dr. Bernhardt. Overall account balance as of /3/9/23 is \$198,597.41, held at Fidelity, current investing in S&P 500 (46%), small cap index (36%), and a money market fund (18%).

Taxes are currently being done by Robert Crosby, CPA, a local accountant with expertise in nonprofit organizations. (Crosby Company, 1457 Marsh Street, Suite 100; 805 543 6100).

As noted in the previous minutes, SLOMERF lost its 501(c)3 status by not paying careful attention to annual minimum distributions and donations. To restore our status we are refiling an amended tax return, using form 8940. It may take up to 180 days to determine if we re-qualify as a 501(c)3. It is likely we are currently classified as “non exempt charitable trust”, a 509(a)3 organization. Charitable trusts can accept donations which are tax deductible.

Dr. Bernhardt will be released from his indentured servitude as treasurer. The members of SLOMERF are deeply grateful for his investing advice and attention to detail. The treasurer’s responsibilities will be assumed by Drs. Hannah and Hilty till a suitable replacement can be found. Drs. Hilty, Hannah and Bernhardt will be signatories to the account. Although having 2 signatures required for any checks would be ideal, Fidelity apparently cannot set this up.

Old Business

A. Oncology Fellowship Stipends (Dr. DiCarlo)

The first fellow (Dr. Arjan Gower) started last week. Dr. DiCarlo indicated that this seems to be a popular rotation since the fellows have the opportunity to see a general oncology/hematology practice (as opposed to sub speciality clinics). While Dr. Gower is prepared to give a short Zoom talk, we do not have an email list to send out to the medical community. In lieu of a presentation to the general community, it was suggested that most of the fellows should instead present to the SLO tumor board members.

The need for a medical community email list for SLOMERF is indicated, however.

Old business (continued)

B. SLO County Mental Health

The research study funded by SLOMERF appears to have had significant impact. Dr. Bernhardt has learned that Twin Cities Hospital together with Transitions mental health has submitted a state funding grant to start an EMPATH unit at that hospital. His perspective is that the grant is very likely to be funded. The SLO county grand jury also issued a report (7/26/22) harshly criticizing the county government's failings to develop inpatient psychiatric care, emergency mental health care for juveniles and poor allocation of resources. The board of supervisors and sheriff's department reportedly have 60 days to respond. Significant personnel changes in the county in response to this report have already occurred. Dr. Hansen will attempt to see if the Board of Supervisors have issued a formal report.

SLOMERF has also identified a need to educate the primary care physicians about what resources are (or are not) available. Attempts to set up a 1/2 day symposium through one of the hospitals have not been successful since most of the CME activities have been suspended due to COVID. Dr. Hannah will pursue this again over the next month

Transitions Mental Health has commissioned a review of the entire mental health system for the SLO county, using Capstone. Phase 1 of the study has been completed, identifying the problems. Phase 2 will determine what needs to be done while Phase 3 would be actual implementation.

C. Pediatric Town Hall (Dr. Tedford)

A pediatric educational summit meeting focusing on mental health will be held at Courtyard Marriott, 3/21/23, 5-830 pm. This meeting is co-sponsored by First5, GenCal health and SLOMERF. SLOMERF formally voted unanimously to donate \$3,000 for the program.

D. HPV vaccine awareness

Dr. Spillane is waiting for SLO public health to move out of COVID mode. Followup next meeting.

New Business

Dr. Vaughn requested if we could provide video option to attend the SLOMERF meetings

Next Quarterly Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for May 18th at 5:30 pm.